

SPARK GAP

Vol. 29, Issue 6, June 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-nine years*

On Our MARC...

The ARRL website describes Field Day as part contest, part emergency preparedness exercise, part public relations demonstration, and a fun way to get on the air; all of which is set up away from commercial power. This description aptly fits the set-up that the MARC created in front of Sugar Grove Elementary School in Greenwood on Saturday, June 9th at the Annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival. Utilizing a variety of radios, all on battery power with end-fed and Buddipole antennas, club members demonstrated their ability and readiness to operate from the "field." While operators had fun in testing the set-ups that had been created, those that visited the display got a taste of ham radio in action.

Given that the Strawberry Festival has effectively become the MARC's annual test of portable operation, the membership voted to conduct its national Field Day efforts, June 23-24, from the EOC. In doing so, - operators will get the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the equipment in the radio room, while at the same time getting a chance to do some contesting. The schedule for the weekend will be announced soon. We hope that many of you will plan to spend some time with us.

As always, we hope that you will join us this Saturday, June 16th at 8:00 a.m., for our regular business meeting. Steve Carmean, K9DY, and Bruce Tisdale, K9ICP, will give a presentation on contesting. Hope to see you there!

Bob - KC9NJM
President

MARC YOUR CALENDER

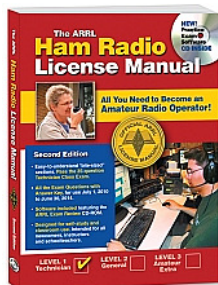
ONE DAY TECHNICIAN CLASS

SATURDAY AUGUST 11TH 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

More information to come on the weekly MARC net and the Spark Gap

For more information contact Bruce secretary@midstatehams.org

The class is using the ARRL Technician License Manual.



Luke Lanham, KB9WIH SK



Luke Lanham

Luke Lanham, 40, passed away Saturday, May 19, 2012, in Auburn. He was a resident of Trafalgar.

Luke was born Feb. 8, 1972, in Franklin to Ralph T. and Lois (Hatfield) Lanham.

Luke was active in SkyWarn in Johnson County and sometimes served as the net control station. He was also active in the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club and enjoyed HAM Radio.

He enjoyed NASCAR and computers. Survivors include his mother, Lois Lanham of Franklin; four sisters, Joyce Hunter and Becky Johnson, both of Indianapolis, and Judy Asher and Patty Roddie, both of Franklin; and six brothers, Tom Lanham of Columbus, Bill and Jerry Lanham, both of Trafalgar, Paul Lanham of Texas, Mike Lanham of New Mexico and David Harris of Frankfort.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Lanham; and a sister, Norma Richardson.

Luke will be missed by his family and friends in amateur radio.



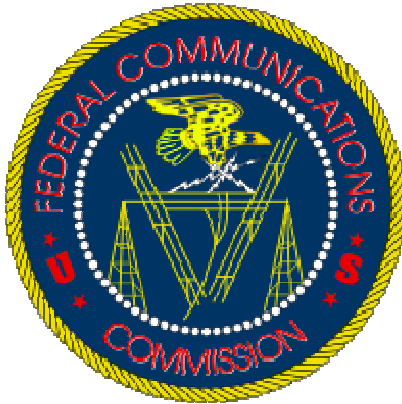
The 2012 ARRL “FIELD DAY” will be held at the Johnson County EOC starting about 12 PM for set up and equipment checks. This is an excellent time to make sure all of our communication equipment is working properly and also test improvements made recently in the antenna systems.

All HAMs are encouraged to help with this contest/exercise.

ARRL Responds to FCC Request for Comments on Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications

On Wednesday, May 16, 2012, the ARRL filed comments in response to the FCC's Public Notice seeking comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and impediments to Amateur Radio communications. Known as Docket 12-91, the Commission is soliciting comments from the public as it writes the report they were directed to present to Congress as part of Public Law No. 112-96.

At the direction of ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and the ARRL Board's Executive Committee, the document was drafted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, assisted by ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, as well as ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX and several ARRL Headquarters staff members.



Over 1500 e-mails were received at ARRL from amateurs, sharing the details of their various deed restrictions. An additional 350-plus e-mails were also received detailing actual Emergency Communications participation in various events from almost every state in the US as well as several US territories.

"The information provided to the ARRL by its members has provided a strong statement of how the various deed restrictions have negatively impacted the ability of Amateur Radio licenses to maximize their participation in disaster and emergency support communications," said Henderson. "The information provided by the membership not only helps us make the best case to the FCC in this docket, but also begins to

lay a good foundation for considering possible rule changes that would enhance Amateur Radio communications beyond this proceeding. I want to thank the hundreds of concerned amateurs who made the effort to provide the ARRL with the facts of their personal set of circumstances. What you shared with us has helped us make a strong argument to present to the Commission," he added.

A copy of the ARRL's filing to the FCC may be found on the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System website.

ARRL Newsletter May 2012



What do you mean too many radios?

2012 WR TWP FD STRAWBERRY FEST

It was a picture perfect day for food, fun and HF frequencies. Ten MARC hams had strawberry shortcake, ice cream and working the world on HF on their minds as the MARC encampment took shape.

Marc members buried stakes near the entrance to Sugar Grove elementary school last Saturday while erecting tents, antennas and radios to demonstrate Amateur Radio. The event was the 20th annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Fest. Proceeds from the annual event helps fund extra equipment for the department.

By 10:00am our field operation was up and making contacts. It only took the crew of seven 90-minutes to set up three working HF stations and antennas. It is amazing what a Bruce, two Steves, two Bobs, a Jack and a little Joe can do after loading up on biscuits, gravy and lots of coffee.

This simulated Field Day exercise may have set a new club record for establishing a ham radio field command post. With the help of some young visitors we made contacts on 40, 20, 15 and 2 meters. The rarest DX was the Ukraine and Finland. WB 9ECK in Milwaukee, Wisconsin answered the CQ call and talked for over ten minutes with one of the more chatty elementary school aged visitors.

Those working the frequencies were Steve-K9DY, Bob-KC9NJM, Phil-N9JEP, Dave- N9QBO, Joe-KC9VKL and Bruce-K9ICP. New to the equipment mix this year was a classic HF rig provided by Bruce-K9ICP. His Yaesu FT1000mp Mark V Field radio made some valuable 40 meter contacts. Stephen Ellis-KK4BXD provided a nice 12 x 14 foot tent. It served as a gathering place for MARC hams making eye to eye QSO's while avoiding the warm June humidity and temperatures. Jack-W8ISH displayed many of the clubs activities in pictures on a large display board placed at the tent entrance. We logged more visitors this year including a couple of folks who intend to sign up for the August 11, 2012 One-Day-Tech class.

Our thanks to those folks who helped answer questions from the public and worked up a sweat setting up and tearing down our Amateur Radio field operation. A tip of the code key to: Dave-KB9LOT, Rusty-N9LLP, Chris-KQ9Y, Bob-N9SIU and Jacki-KI6QOG.

-Jack w8ish

Pictures by Jack W8ISH



Dave N9QVO making a contact



Bruce K9ICP, Kylie, Steve K9DY



Fence Antennas



The gang enjoying the day



Kylie at mic

2012 Indiana Hamfests

Feb 25	Cabin Fever Hamfest , LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte IN, 7 AM till 1 PM CST, http://k9jsi.org/ , Info N9ROH@csinet.net
Feb 25	Brownsburg Hamfest, American Legion Post 331, Brownsburg IN, 6AM-3:30PM, Talk-in 147.015+, Contact: K9MSG dlucas002@indy.rr.com
March 3	Dugger Hamfest , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html
March 10	Terre Haute Hamfest , Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, http://w9uuu.org/
March 31	Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest , Community Building in Columbus, Indiana http://www.carcnet.org/
April 21	North Central Indiana Hamfest , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN http://www.nci-hamfest.net/
July 14	Indianapolis Hamfest , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, http://www.indyhamfest.com
Oct. 6	Hoosier Hills Hamfest , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , http://www.w9qyq.org/
Nov. 17-18	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

*P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131*

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

